4:Grajdanzev--149 S-4 (no date) 1942 Formosans
116, 314, 439, 655, 177.31 Japan
636.31

"The government, desiring to utilize the unique position occupied by Taiwan in the supply of camphor, made it a government monopoly. However, in the last few years synthethic camphor production has made striking progress and the monopoly is now definitely broken. This does not mean that natural camphor will lose its market for the expanding celluloid industry can successfully absorb the surplus, but the former advantageous position of the Japanese government is lost."

6: Kirchhoff--33 [4] U-4 (no date) 1895 Formosans
116, 314, 563

Camphor is obtained in a curious way. It is the result of a never ceasing guerrilla warfare on the forest border, where the region inhabited by the Tsche-huan begins. Risking his head in the process, the Chinese frontiersman either sets out at random with his axe into the woods or he deceives the unsuspecting savage, after having intoxicated him with Sam-schu, by swindling out of him a certificate or authorization to fell wood in his district. The greater part of the camphor tree is then used as a building wood and the rest is hacked up into chips, from which commercial camphor is obtained by moist distillation.

9: Yamasaki--223 [2] N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 133, 135, 314

It is worthy of note that the wealth of the island depends chiefly on the Tertiary mountains. The most important minerals, such as gold, soft coal and petroleum, are found here. The camphor trees also grow in this region, for the most part.

9: Yamasaki--232-233 N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 137, 314

Camphor (Chang-nau or Nau in Chinese, Shōnō in Japanese) plays the most important part among the forest products, in fact the island is the largest provider of it. The camphor tree (Cinnamomum camphora Nees.) or, as one also says, the "king of the Formosan forests," is found in abundance in the luxuriant virgin forests of the northern half of the Kali chain and the neighboring regions of the Central Range, up to a height of 2,000 m. The trees attain an imposing height and sometimes, [233] with a diameter of 3 m., are between 40 and 50 m. high.

9: Yamasaki--233 N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 314

Here and there, on the border territories of the aborigines on the western slopes of the Central chain, there stretch out a number of devices for obtaining camphor, in which the Hakka, a hardy clan that formerly transferred themselves here from the province of Canton, prepare the raw camphor. The apparatus is very simple and not very well adapted to its purpose. Only the juicy roots and the lower pieces of the trunk are used, while the corona is thrown away.

9: Yamasaki--233 [2] N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 314, 655

The Japanese Government on the island has now made the camphor trade into a monopoly, like the obtaining of sea salt on the west coast.

10: Schumacher--226 [4] T-1 (ca. 1896) 1898 Formosans
116, 314

Many mountain spurs branch off the large inner mountain chain in the direction of the ocean. At one time all these heights were covered with camphor forests which were mostly exploited by the Chinese but partly by the Europeans. Today camphor is found only in the principal mountains and the increased demand for this valuable article of trade has induced the Chinese to search for new camphor forests.

On the first day (November 13) we advanced from Ling-ki-ho 24 kilometers toward Mt. Morrison through hilly or cultivated land. On the second day we marched on through grass three meters in height or through bamboo woods which in the valleys were replaced by banana woods. As we climbed higher, we soon reached the evergreen foliaceous woods. In the past they had apparently occupied areas now claimed by bamboos and banana trees. But the leafy woods could not maintain themselves when they were attacked by fire, and thus had to give way to the bamboos. In places where the bamboo forests were frequently subjected to fire, vegetation is limited to the bothersome kaya grass (Imperata arundinacea, Cyr.). In the foliaceous woods most of the trees are fig or camphor trees occupying large areas in many instances and mixed with palm trees and creepers. Here the vegetation is extremely luxuriant. The camphor trees reach a circumference of up to ten meters and a height of 50 meters. Ferns twenty meters high fight their way up between the trees, giant aerial roots hang down, and often we were at a complete loss facing the impenetrable confusion of the thicket. This virgin forest detained us for two days. I noticed that unfortunately many of the huge camphor trees had been hacked at by men in search for camphor and that they had died as a consequence of this treatment. As a result many of the giant trees had fallen or had been blown over by the wind. Only about five percent of a tree had been used for the exploitation of camphor and then thousands of trunks of precious wood had simply been left to rot. Of

course we immediately tried to stop such devastation and waste by strict regulations, but so far we have not yet the necessary personnel to create order in these dangerous parts of the country. In many cases the dead giants of the forest necessitated detours and we lost much time. We spent the second night in a lonely hut that must have been erected by camphor collectors.

I wish to stress the following points of our scientific observations:

1. The common notion that Mt. Morrison is of volcanic origin is erroneous. The main rock materials of the mountain and its environment are argillaceous schists and quartzite. The beds of the former strike with a dip of 70° from EN 10° to WS 10°. Therefore the northern slopes are much steeper than the southern slopes, and rock slides are frequent.

2. The height of the peak is not 12830 feet, as had been determined by means of trigonometric measurements from the sea, but our barometric observations showed that the height should be 14350 feet. It is likely that the peak itself, as seen from the ocean, may be hidden by another summit close to it.

3. At noon of November 21, our barometer stood at 453 mm and the thermometer at 4.5° centigrade with a relative humidity of 90%.

4. We did not find snow anywhere, not even in the rock fissures on the mountain. The notion prevalent among the Chinese of Formosa that eternal snow covers the mountain is due to the white quartz which from a great distance may be mistaken for snow.

5. The mountainland of Formosa by no means everywhere [473] consists of impenetrable virgin forest. The southern slopes of the mountains are often covered with extensive grass areas for which, in part, the fires started by the natives to facilitate hunting are responsible. Through the telescope from the peak, we have observed a good

deal of the mountain region, and have found that at the most forty per cent of the area visible from that position was occupied by forests.

6. Up to an altitude of 1700 feet; the lowland of Formosa is claimed by tropical vegetation among which ficus, pandanus, palm trees, and pineapple are predominant. From here to an elevation of 6000 feet above sea-level, we find sub-tropical evergreen foliaceous woods; camphor trees occur up to 6500 feet and the same is true of evergreen oak trees. At 6000 feet the region of coniferous trees begins; the species found are at first Cryptomeriae and Chamaesyparis then followed at 7000-8500 feet by firs (variety of Picea Glehni), and Tsuga diversifolia Maxim. at 8500-10, 500 feet. Finally from 10, 500 feet to the peak of Mt. Morrison, we find pine trees and juniperus and principally Abies Mariesti.

7. The abundance of water in the mountain lakes makes it possible to follow the watercourses into the region of the fir trees and the wood may be transported down the streams.

8. The exploitation of camphor on Formosa is still at a very primitive stage. If the methods of Kiushiu were employed production could easily be doubled.

9. The aborigines are by no means hunters. Only the chiefs and a few of their subjects go hunting. The main occupation of the people is agriculture. In particular,

sweet potatoes and millet are important products. In addition tobacco and a variety of pea are grown. The system of agriculture is communistic. Its advantages are that nothing is stolen because nobody is permitted to have private property. Both work and harvest are arranged on a cooperative basis.

10. The men are willing workers and like to use axes, which makes me believe that they would be good forestry workers.

31: Hofmann--605 N-3 (1909) 1912 Formosans
116, 133, 311, 314

From Toyen we travelled for 14 kilometers on a small vehicle on tracks (52 centimeter gauge); two Chinese coolies served to propel the car. We stopped at the steep bank of the Tamsui; the river rages far below, washing over the reddish-brown, muddy banks veined with large, round rocks. The rest of the way we went on foot or were carried in a sedan; the coolies were strong enough to carry these anywhere, always at the same regular pace. Every foot of land here has been utilized. Here and there we saw Acacia catechu trees; the sweet smell of their small, fragrant blossoms penetrated everywhere. The acacia, a small tree barely 10 meters high, is also important for tanning; this tree predominates in the plains of northern Formosa. Towards evening we came to Taikokan. (1) Our chief objection on this journey was to study the camphor production

1. The spelling of place names is based on the Japanese pronounciation; the Chinese use a somewhat different system of names.

of the Japanese Mitsui Company. The company had obtained a concession in the forested regions bordering on the territory of the aborigines. We did not succeed in this at first, since the region around Taikokan is a Chinese agricultural district.

37: Steere--316-317 S-3 (1873-74?) 1875 Formosans
116, 245, 311, 314

"The culture of tea has but just commenced, but has already reached considerable importance at Tamsni. The kind mostly cultivated is Oolong, which goes most of it to the United States. The cultivation can be carried to any [317] extent in the north of the island, as there are great plains of high rolling lands lying from Changwha to Tamsni, of the rich red clay which is so favorable for tea. These high plains are the home of the camphor tree, many trunks and stumps of which still lie over the ground, and of the wild tea-tree, of which I saw one specimen, with the trunk a foot in diameter and thirty feet high. The inhabitants gather the wild tea, but it is of bad quality, either by nature or from being badly cured. These high plains are now lying desert, as they cannot be irrigated, while tea is one of the few plants that needs no irrigation. These lands lie near the sea where transportation is easy, while much, or most, of the Chinese tea country is almost inaccessible, the tea having to be carried many days on men's backs and then transported by boats down rapid and dangerous streams, before it can reach a market. Camphor is exported from the island, and most of the mountain land seems to have camphor upon it, but the drug is only procured by the destruction of the tree, and there is no replanting done. There is also quite a trade with China in camphor planks."

42: Schetelig--392-393 T-2 (no date) 1868 Formosans
116, 135, 314, 433

Among the products of the country I mention those of special interest for Europeans; coal, camphor and sulphur, for indigo and hemp are sent to the Chinese market only. No great quantities of sulphur are found, but more could be obtained nevertheless by the improvement of the methods used. Camphor alone makes a treasure chamber of the island of Formosa. It is known that the Laurus camphora is found only in Japan and Formosa, and there only in some districts. Since only trees of a particular age can be used for obtaining the valuable resin, and since every time, unfortunately, the whole tree with trunk and branches is thrown into the subliming pot, one can foresee a time when camphor will go up in price in geometric progression [393] and when finally production will become so small that not even Germany alone can be provided with it. This matter of camphor production seems to me to be of no means inconsiderable economic importance...